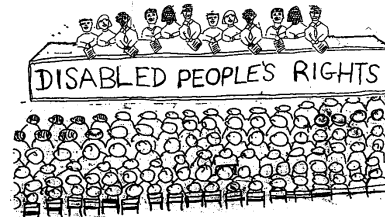


UNITED KINGDOM DISABLED PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT (UKDPP)



INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE A CANDIDATE

Can I be a candidate?



- If you are a disabled person (this includes people with physical and sensory impairments, learning difficulties and mental health system survivors) and you live in the United Kingdom you can be a candidate for the United Kingdom Disabled People's Parliament.



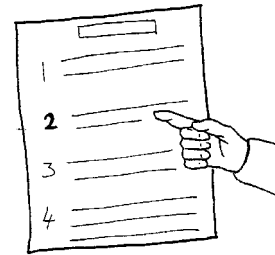
- To prove you are a disabled person and keen to be seen as one then you must be a member of a member group of BCODP.

We are a member group
Of The British Council of Disabled People



I am a member of this group.

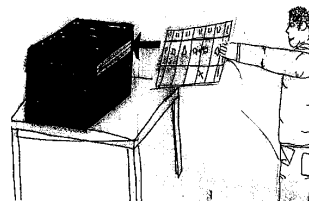
- If you are not already a member then you need to find out a member group that you can join. We have put a list of our member groups in this letter.



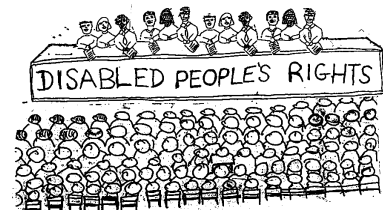
- The British Council of Disabled People's website – www.bcodp.org.uk has more details of how to get in touch with these groups. You need to be a member of one of these groups before you can apply to be a candidate.



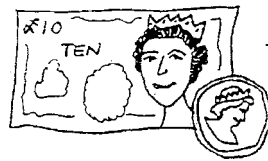
What will I have to do if I am elected?



- You will have to do your very best to attend the Parliament's first meeting which will be in Birmingham on 4th and 5th October 2003.



- If you can we will be asking you to pay for your own travel costs and also a place to stay if you attend the Parliament. There will be a limited number of grants available to cover these costs. More details will be provided to all candidates at a later stage. The British Council of Disabled People will pay for the refreshments and lunch on the Saturday which will be the day of the Parliament meeting.



- If you are an elected member of the United Kingdom Disabled People's Parliament, you must be ready for people in the street to recognise you.



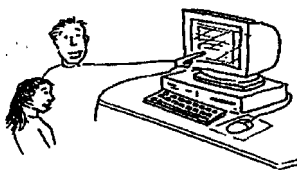
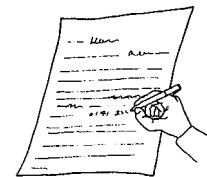
- The media like television, radio and newspapers will also know who you are. This might mean that you are asked questions by them until October 2004.



What do I have to do to tell people I want to be a candidate?



- All you have to do is:
- Send a letter or email to The British Council of Disabled People telling us that you want to be a candidate. Our address is: Litchurch Plaza, Litchurch Lane, DERBY, DE24 8AA.

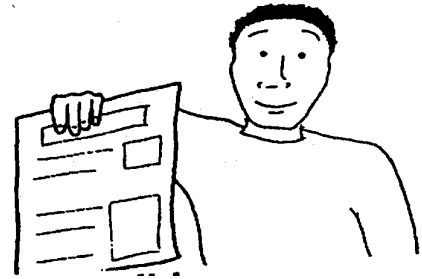


- An email should be sent to Vicki@bcodp.org.uk An email would be easier for us. You can get someone to do this for you if you can.

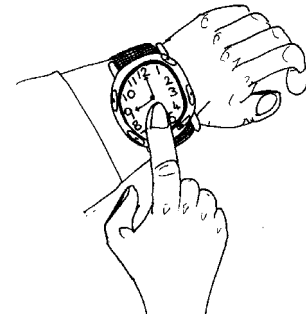
- You must tell us your name, your address and other details about how we can contact you. This includes an email address if possible and the British Council Of Disabled People's member group that you are a member of.



- You will also need to send us a short report about yourself and why you want other people to elect you to the United Kingdom Disabled People's Parliament, in no more than 150 words. People who might vote for you will only know your name, the group you are a member of, and your short report. This means that your short report is very important in letting them know about you.



- We need to know that you want to be a candidate by 9.00am on 16th June 2003 at the latest. You cannot be a candidate if you do not give us the information we need by this date.



How will the election be run?

- Once we know who all the candidates are, you will be put up for election in the area of the United Kingdom that you live in.



I live in London, so I would like to represent everyone in London.

- There are 12 areas in the United Kingdom. These are the same ones that the government uses which are: – Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and the nine English regions – South West, South East, Greater London, East of England, East Midlands, West Midlands, Yorkshire and Humberside, North West and North East.



- In each area we have already worked out how many people can be elected. This is based on the number of disabled people in each area – so the more disabled people in an area, the more people will be elected to the United Kingdom Disabled People’s Parliament from that area.



- Also it has been decided that we want to make sure that disabled people from black and ethnic minority communities, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender disabled people and people with learning difficulties have a fair number of seats in the Parliament. There will be special ways to make sure this happens. Please let us know if you come from one of these groups and you would like to get help to make sure you are treated fairly.



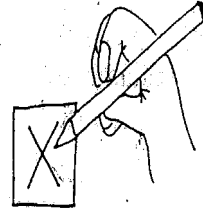
- The names and the short reports from all the candidates will be printed in a special ‘Activate’ newsletter from The British Council of Disabled People. This newsletter will be sent free to The British Council of Disabled People individual and member groups. Candidates for the Parliament will also get a copy. It will also be available **free** on The British Council of Disabled People’s website – www.bcodp.org.uk.



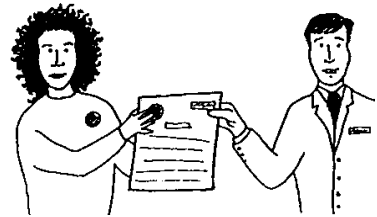
- If anyone else wants a paper copy of the newsletter from us, and this may include people who want to vote, there will be a charge to cover the cost. This charge will be £5.00, payable to The British Council of

Disabled People. We hope that this special newsletter ‘Activate’ will be available from 4th July 2003.

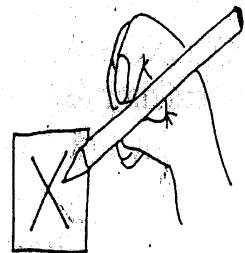
- If there are fewer candidates for an area than there are seats available, then all the candidates will be elected and there will not be a need for a vote in that area.



- To vote in the election, voters must be disabled people who are a member of a British Council of Disabled People member group or an individual member of The British Council of Disabled People itself. They need to be a member by 30th June 2003 to make sure they get a vote.



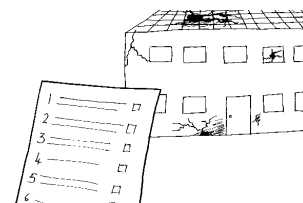
- If a vote is needed then each voter will get one voting slip for their area. They will be able to mark with a “X” as many candidates that they like up to the number of seats available. People will be told how many candidates they can choose.



- Voting slips should be sent out to British Council of Disabled People member groups and individual members of The British Council of Disabled People around 18th July 2003.



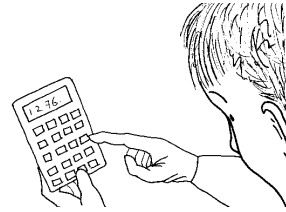
- For a vote to count the voting slip must be received at The British Council of Disabled People’s offices in, Derby, by 5.00pm on Monday 18th August.



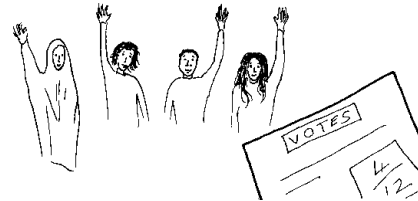
- Any votes that are late will not be counted.



- The votes will then be counted at The British Council of Disabled People's offices.



- The candidates that get the most votes will be elected.

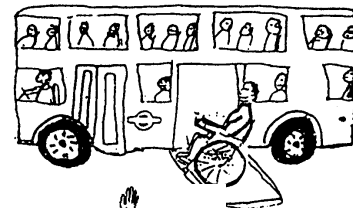


- The results of the election will be put on the website by 5th September 2003.



Will there be anything else I can do to tell people about why they should vote for me ?

- One thing you might like to do is to stand up in public and make a speech. You will have the chance to do this if you go along to where the European Year bus is when it moves around the United Kingdom between 2nd June and 2nd July 2003.



- You will need to contact The British Council of Disabled People to say that you want to do this. We can tell the people in charge of the bus so that they know you want to do this.



- You will only be allowed 5 minutes to say what you want. You may also be asked by the local press, radio or TV to say something about the United Kingdom Disabled People's Parliament too.



- If you do not wish to speak yourself, you could ask a friend to say your words for you. You must have told The British Council of Disabled People that you want to be a candidate before you will be allowed to do this.

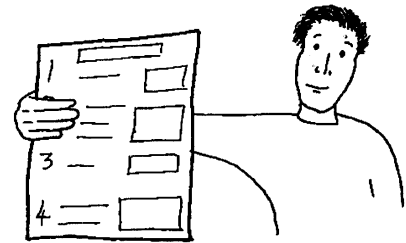


- There will be special arrangements for some people to make their speeches when the European Year bus is at Castle Donnington for the Mobility Roadshow, on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th June 2003. If you would like to make a speech then please let us know.



When will the results be told?

- A full list of the results will be sent to candidates and British Council of Disabled People member groups by 5th September 2003.



What happens if I am elected?

- If you are successful in the election you will receive a letter from The British Council of Disabled People telling you that you are elected.



- The letter will also tell you about the first meeting of the Parliament, and what you need to do to make sure that you are there.

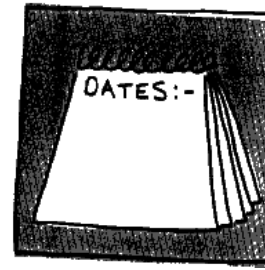


- You will then need to make your own arrangements to be at the Parliament meeting.



When is the Parliament meeting?

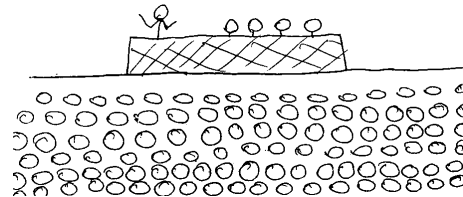
- The Parliament meeting will be on Saturday 4th October and Sunday 5th October 2003.



- It would be good to register on Friday 3rd October in the evening.

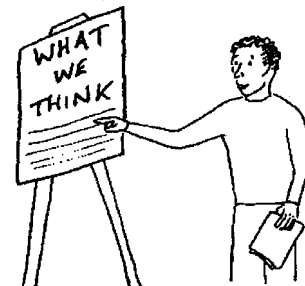


- The meeting will start properly at 10.00am on the Saturday and finish at 1.00pm on the Sunday.



What will happen at the Parliament meeting?

- The main business of the Parliament will be to talk about what disabled people would like to see the government do about improving the rights of disabled people. Then vote on a new disability law which the government should introduce.



- The Parliament will do this by looking at the draft Disabled People's Rights and Freedoms Bill and deciding what changes are needed to make it better.



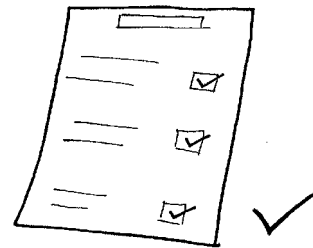
- You can see a copy of the draft Disabled People’s Rights and Freedoms Bill on The British Council of Disabled People’s website – www.bcodp.org.uk



- If you are elected, a copy of the draft bill will be included in your papers for the Parliament.

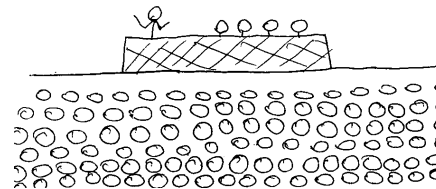


- We think the programme for the Parliament meeting will be like this :-



Saturday 4th October 2003

- Opening of the Parliament



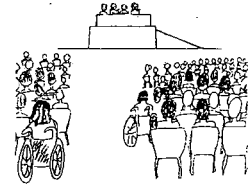
- “Question Time” with politicians and other important people being asked questions by members of the Parliament



- Lunch



- The British Council of Disabled People's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and some other meetings for people that do not want to go to the Annual General Meeting.



- Comfort break



- Workshops in small groups to talk about what things the members want to happen to improve disabled people's rights

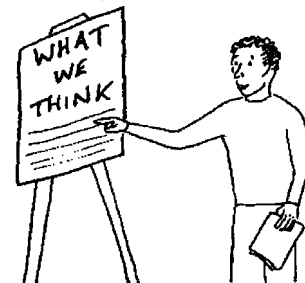


- End of the business for the day and the chance to go and have a nice evening somewhere. Some entertainment may be put on too.



Sunday 5th October 2003

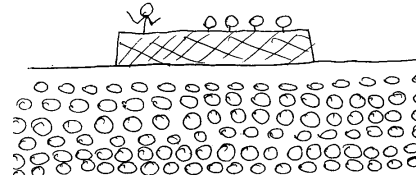
- A talk to decide what things should go in the new disability law, and a vote or votes taken



- Comfort break



- A talk about what members think the Parliament should do next



- End of the Parliament at Sunday lunchtime.



There will also be an exhibition and information fair, and a helpdesk.

